

Borough of Marlborough.

Extract from Annual  
Report of M. O. H.

Population at last census. 3012.

Acres. 196. N<sup>o</sup> of persons per acre 15.3.

Number of persons per inhabited house about. 6.

Death rate including 4 persons removed to the Infirmary & one  
to the Swinlake Hospital 17.9 per 1,000

Infant mortality 129.8.

Deaths occurring within the Borough 49.

Births. ————— 77.

Cases of sickness from the Poor Law Officers relief book  
have been 47 in number as against 72 last year.

Sanitary condition of the Borough.

Water Supply. Up to the present the supply has been by  
private wells, those on the north side of the High St being  
for the most part deep wells those on the south side shallow  
wells, many of which have been condemned. This  
year the public water supply has been completed.

Drainage. The town is drained by 8 main sewers  
opening into the river at as many places. These are  
partly formed of glazed pipes & partly round brick sewers  
Most of the premises in the Borough have some connection  
with the sewers, either by water closets, ~~sinks~~ sinks in the  
house or by gullies in the back premises.

There are one or two recognized ventilating shafts to  
each of these sewers. The sewers are fairly clean  
where the fall is rapid, but those which I have seen  
in the lower part of the town have a good deal of  
deposit. The house drains are in some cases of glazed



pipes & in others of bricks. The latter usually very roughly constructed & leaking freely - The house drains for the most part open directly into the sewers without any intercepting arrangements & often have no ventilation. Where there is a water closet the soil pipe is in some cases not ventilated, in others only by a pipe of small calibre, in a few only is it carried up above the roof in its full calibre. In a few cases where there is no closet, there is a ventilating shaft on the sewer side of the yard gully, but this is the exception. When such shaft exists it acts as a ventilator to the sewer by means of the house drain.

There are still stack pipes opening directly into the drains, which act as ventilators to these and therefore to the sewers. Some of these have been altered during the past year -

The River. In the river at the outlets of these sewers, there are heaps of sewage which accumulate to their maximum towards the end of summer. The greatest accumulation is opposite the King'sbury St. sewer. After flood time such as has recently occurred the river becomes fairly clear.

Cesspits. The number of cesspit-pipes in the Borough is 148 (about). During the past year several have been done away with & water closets substituted. Many of the cesspits are of such a character that they cannot



be made to conform to the by-laws as regards emptying & cleansing. Consequently many of them have been left for years. During the past year most of these have been cleaned out though there are still some that were reported last year unaltered to.

Asks pts. The by-laws state that.

These receptacles shall not contain more than accumulates during one week.

That they shall be rendered inside with Cement, that the floor shall be 3" over the surface of the surrounding ground & that they shall be properly covered.

Further with regards to the keeping of Cattle, that every person shall provide in connection with such premises a suitable receptacle for dung, manure, soil, filth, or other offensive or noxious matter.

The Sanitary Inspector reports to me that there are about 54 refuse heaps none of which are in accordance with the by-laws.

Angel Yard is especially a nuisance in this respect. Some of the objectionable heaps have been removed during the past year.

Collection of House Refuse. The house refuse is deposited on certain days in the week in the street & collected by carts & removed to certain heaps situated outside the Borough in thoroughly isolated positions. & then disposed of in various ways.

Its removal is carried out by contract.

I have in several reports commented on the method of this kind of scavenging. The refuse is deposited



in all sorts of receptacles, old wooden cases, pails, etc. or simply deposited on the roadway. Garden refuse is often added to the House refuse. Some of the receptacles are piled up to overflowing. I have often seen children playing about these boxes & selecting attractive articles from them, during the time, often considerable, in which the refuse remains in the streets.

Cottage Accommodation. Many houses have been improved during the last year. There is still great lack of cottage accommodation & in some places the arrangements are not at all sanitary i.e. backless cottages with small space in front & insufficient sanitary conveniences. (Some quoted).

Bakehouses. Inspected, all in good condition.

Slaughter houses well kept - one very unsuitable on account of its construction, but well kept.

The Byelaws. meet the requirements of the district except I think in the matter of Cow keeping. There should be some well defined regulations for the guidance of those who have Cowhouses in the Borough especially in reference to the drainage, flooring & periodical cleansing of the walls.

The Cowsheds, dairies, & milkshops act as in force  
Sanitary works of the Year.

The most important sanitary work of the year is the completion of the public water supply. The well



13 sunk in the chalk at the foot of the first  
Hill. The report of the County Analyst on the  
water is that. "This water is an excellent drinking  
water" Its Temporary hardness is 9 degrees. Permanent  
hardness. 5 degrees.

Considerable discussion arose during the work upon the  
position of some of the mains with regard to the  
drains & sewers & I thought fit in one of my reports  
to state that there was cause for anxiety on this  
subject. The joints in many instances being in a  
sewer saturated soil or immediately under leaky  
sewers & drains. In a few instances the joints were  
placed within house drains, which lay in the way. In others  
the house drains were very imperfect brick drains &  
discharged their contents into the soil above the position  
of the water mains.

In all instances where a joint or the pipe itself  
was situated in a drain, the drain has been carried  
under the water main by a brick. The most offending  
house drains were replaced by glazed pipes.

In one or two places new sewers have been constructed.  
Strut fullers. Several old strut fullers, made of brick,  
have been replaced by sanitary stone ware fullers.

Several of the rain water stack pipes have been  
disconnected from the drains.

The Infectious diseases Notification & Prevention acts  
are in force.



There have been during the year 26 cases of  
Diphtheria reported & one case of Scarlet Fever.  
During the latter part of the year the Sanitary  
Authority have undertaken to arrange for the  
Bacteriological investigation of all cases of sore  
throat suspected of Diphtheria. By this means  
already some cases have been recognized which  
would probably not have been looked upon as being  
Diphtheria - viz. mild cases in which the illness did  
not last more than two or three days. It is intended  
now to regulate the return of children to school by  
Bacteriological investigation of the throats of the  
Convalescents. I could trace no common origin of  
the outbreak. The cases arose almost entirely  
among children attending St. Marys & St. Peters schools.  
No suspicion fell on the milk or water. In three at any  
rate of the worst cases there were serious defects in  
the drainage & sore throats had been common in  
the households. Eight occurred in the first half of  
the year & eighteen in the second half. Of the  
26 cases, 9 died - 7 cases were removed to the  
Isolation Hospital, one of which died.  
The case of Scarlet fever occurred in June, which was  
at once removed to the Isolation Hospital.



Addition of private nurses room to the isolation  
Hospital suggested.

### Drainage & Sewage disposal.

The question of drainage & sewage disposal is  
becoming one of the most urgent sanitary considerations  
of the town & now that the water works are finished  
this consideration can no longer be postponed. Already  
the river is polluted with a large quantity of sewage  
& this will be increased now, since water supplied under  
pressure will facilitate the water carrying system  
of sewage removal & since nearly all the premises  
in the Borough can be put in connection with the  
present sewers, it is sure to be taken advantage  
of, by increasing numbers. But now that there is  
a water supply, a system of main drainage with  
some hope of success has become possible. And  
the longer the question is postponed, the more money  
will be spent in patching up old sewers & putting  
down new lengths which may have to be altered again  
when the drainage is thoroughly undertaken, to  
say nothing of the expenses of house owners in putting  
in house drains. Some of the old brick sewers cannot  
be kept free from deposit & consequently give rise to the  
formation of much gas. These will have to be replaced  
& the levels may have to be altered with consequent alterations  
in the house drains.



Special reports during the year.

- 1 Report on some Cesspits.
- 2 - - - on some Stack pipes going direct to drains
3. Detailed report of Cases of Diphtheria to the L.C.B.
- 4 Report on some defective drains in the High St.

Signed.

J. H. Haydon B.A. M.B.

Med. Off. of Health.